

Larry E. Craig, Chairman  
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# Legislative Notice

Editor, Judy Gorman Prinkey

No. 60

May 1, 1998

## **S. 1186 -- The Workforce Investment Partnership Act**

Calendar No. 214

Reported from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources October 9, 1997 with a substitute amendment. S. Rept. 105-109; additional views filed.

### **NOTEWORTHY**

- By unanimous consent, debate on S. 1186 has been limited to 4 hours, with a total of six possible first-degree amendments. No second-degree amendments are in order.
- The following amendments are in order: a **Jeffords substitute** (2 hours); a **DeWine amendment** (30 minutes) to insert the text of S. 1579 to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; **two Ashcroft amendments** (10 minutes each); a **Lautenberg amendment** (10 minutes) on service delivery area size; and a **Domenici amendment** (1 hour) regarding business partnership.
- S. 1186, introduced by Senator DeWine on September 17, 1997 consolidates nearly 70 separate vocational education, adult education, and job training programs.
- The bill creates state and local partnerships comprised governors, relevant state agencies, business representatives, local officials, educators and others that will be responsible for establishing the criteria and standards for the job training programs and the certification of local job training providers.
- S. 1186 also provides for better coordination among existing programs by creating mandatory linkages to welfare to work activities, the Job Corps, the Wagner-Peyser Act, the Older Americans Act, the Rehabilitation Act, veterans programs, the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, and other job training programs.
- The bill provides states with the option to submit a "Unified Plan" or a single state plan to the Secretary of Labor and authorizes and expands a modified "Work-Flex" program for all states. Work-Flex is currently limited to just six state demonstration projects.



April 30, 1998  
(Senate)

# STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

## S. 1186 - Workforce Investment Partnership Act of 1998 (Sen. DeWine (R) OH and 3 others)

The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of S. 1186, as modified by the expected managers' amendment, because it would reform workforce development programs by incorporating key principles articulated in the President's G.I. Bill for America's Workers. The Administration urges Congress to enact this legislation by July 1, 1998 in order to make available appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for the President's proposed Youth Opportunity Areas initiative to increase employment among out-of-school youth in high-poverty areas.

The Administration does not agree with every provision in S. 1186. In addition, an amendment may be offered that would prohibit the use of funds available under the Act to carry out activities authorized under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. The Administration strongly opposes this amendment and will work in conference to address this and any other remaining concerns.

The new workforce development system embodied in S. 1186 would empower individuals to obtain the services and skills they need to enhance their employment opportunities. It would accomplish this through skill grants, consumer report cards on training program performance, and universal access to core services, such as job search assistance. The new system also would: (1) streamline access to job training programs through one-stop career centers; (2) enhance accountability for results through State and local performance standards and certification of training providers; and (3) increase flexibility for States and localities to enhance the effectiveness of programs. The Administration is concerned about certain provisions that limit the summer jobs component of the youth grant, and looks forward to addressing this and other concerns in conference.

The Administration is pleased that S. 1186 would target vocational education and adult education funds to educational agencies and institutions with the greatest need and to activities that promote program quality. The Administration looks forward to addressing in conference its remaining concerns about the adequacy of funding for: (1) national activities to ensure accountability and promote program quality, and (2) Tribally Controlled Postsecondary vocational institutions.

In addition, the Administration understands that an amended version of S. 1579, the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, will be incorporated into S. 1186 during Senate consideration. The Administration supports Senate passage of the Rehabilitation Act

amendments, which would, among other things, streamline eligibility determinations for SSA beneficiaries and improve State planning and accountability for results. The Administration also strongly supports ensuring that the Federal Government procures and uses information technology that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, as provided in the revision to section 508 proposed by the Administration. Finally, the Administration supports the intent of S. 1579, as reflected in the Committee report, to provide for greater collaboration between each State vocational rehabilitation (VR) program and the workforce investment system without compromising the fundamental structure and funding of the State's VR program.

#### Pay-As-You-Go Scoring

S. 1186, as amended to include the text of S. 1579, would affect direct spending and receipts; therefore, it is subject to the pay-as-you-go requirement of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. Because the reauthorization does not change mandatory spending calculations from current law, OMB estimates that the net pay-as-you-go effect would be zero.

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